

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0021

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An expandable tubular coupling comprising:  
a threaded male portion having a leading part and a trailing part; and  
a corresponding threaded female portion having a leading part and a trailing part,  
wherein the leading part of the female portion corresponds to the trailing part of the male portion;

the threaded portions featuring thread profiles configured such that the coupling may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further, each threaded portion comprising:

a first part having a first thread profile, and

a second part having a second thread profile, the first thread profile having a different shape than the second thread profile, wherein the thread profiles are configured such that the thread portions may be made up until the start of the thread profile on the trailing part of the male portion encounters the start of the different shaped thread profile on the trailing part of the female portion.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male portion has the ~~[[a]]~~ leading part with a thread profile corresponding to a thread profile of the ~~[[a]]~~ trailing part of the female portion.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1 [[5]], wherein the change in thread profiles between the leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is abrupt.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1 [[5]], wherein the change in thread profiles between the leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is gradual.

8. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1 [[5]], wherein the change in thread profiles between the leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is incremental.

9. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are a combination of a square thread profile and a dovetail thread profile.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on the [[a]] leading part of the male portion and the dovetail profile is provided on the [[a]] trailing part of the male portion.

11. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on the [[a]] trailing part of the female portion and the dovetail profile is provided on the [[a]] leading part of the female portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 11, wherein a square profile on the [[a]] leading part of the male portion is adapted to mate with the dovetail profile on the leading part of the female portion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first thread profile is square.
16. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first thread profile is dovetail-shaped.
17. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein a smaller thread profile is provided on the [[a]] leading part of the male portion and is adapted to mate with a similarly dimensioned thread profile provided on the [[a]] trailing part of the female portion.
18. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein a larger dimensioned thread profile is provided on the [[a]] trailing part of the male portion and the [[a]] leading part of the female portion, which larger dimensioned thread profiles are engageable with each other but are not engageable with smaller thread profiles provided on the [[a]] leading part of the male portion and the [[a]] trailing part of the female portion, respectively.
19. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein a transition between the first and second thread profiles is abrupt.
20. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein a transition between the first and second thread profiles is gradual.
21. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein a transition between the first and second thread profiles is incremental.
22. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are parallel.

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23. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are tapered.

24. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are left hand.

25. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are right hand.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) An expandable tubular coupling comprising:  
a threaded male portion; and  
a corresponding threaded female portion,  
the threaded portions featuring thread profiles configured such that the coupling may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further, wherein:

the thread profiles are a combination of a square thread profile and a dovetail thread profile;

the square profile is provided on a trailing part of the female portion and the dovetail profile is provided on a leading part of the female portion; and

a dovetail profile on a trailing part of the male portion is configured so as not to mate with the square profile on the trailing part of the female portion.

31. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claim:

32. (New) An expandable tubular coupling comprising:  
a threaded male portion; and

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a corresponding threaded female portion, the threaded portions featuring thread profiles configured such that the coupling may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further, each threaded portion comprising:

a first part having a first thread profile, and

a second part having a second thread profile, the first thread profile having a different geometric shape than the second thread profile.